United Nations S/2013/465

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 August 2013
English
Original: French

Letter dated 2 August 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith two letters dated 1 August 2013 from the representative of the Syrian Coalition on the situation in Syria (human rights, chemical weapons) (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Béatrice **Le Fraper du Hellen**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

13-41749 (E) 050813 050813

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Annex I to the letter dated 2 August 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]
[1 August 2013]

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Supreme Military Council, I wish to extend an invitation to the United Nations Mission to Investigate Alleged Uses of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Having recently liberated the Khan al-Assal area, the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Council ask that the Mission act without delay to investigate reported incidents of chemical weapons use throughout this area. Both the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Council stand ready to cooperate fully with representatives of the Mission and welcome United Nations investigators into all territories under our control.

The Syrian Coalition and Supreme Military Council reaffirm our joint and steadfast commitment to upholding international humanitarian and human rights law and condemn the deployment of chemical weapons. We further demand that any individuals found responsible for the use of chemical weapons be held accountable for their crimes, in full accordance with international law.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
United Nations Representative of the Syrian Coalition

Annex II to the letter dated 2 August 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]
[1 August 2013]

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, I wish to draw to your attention the address delivered by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, to members of the General Assembly on Monday, 29 July 2013.

As Mr. Pinheiro explained in his impassioned testimony, Syria is in "free fall". Thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have been killed by relentless shelling and aerial bombardment directed by forces loyal to the Assad regime. Untold numbers of Syrians have been illegally detained and tortured. Hospitals have been bombarded and schools destroyed.

Repeatedly, the Syrian regime has used its superior weapons and control of the skies to lay siege upon towns and cities across Syria. Syrian armed forces, with the support of the paramilitary National Defence Army and the Lebanese militia Hizbullah, have cut off access to food, water, medicine and electricity for thousands of Syrians suspected of sympathizing with opposition groups. The Commission of Inquiry has documented indiscriminate shelling and aerial bombardment by Syrian forces in civilian areas, including the deployment of imprecise weapons such as unguided ballistic missiles, cluster munitions and thermobaric bombs.

These acts are being committed in direct violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, and represent a clear breach of Syria's international obligations as outlined in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and as stipulated in past Security Council resolutions.

In resolution 1894 (2009) the Security Council stated "its condemnation in the strongest terms of attacks in situations of armed conflict directed against civilians". It furthermore demanded that parties to armed conflict "implement all relevant decisions of the Council" and urged them "to take all required measures to respect and protect the civilian population and meet its basic needs". It is clear that the Syrian regime's actions have repeatedly violated that resolution and countless other Security Council resolutions dedicated to the protection of civilians, including resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006) and 1738 (2006).

Despite such violations, however, the Security Council has remained unmoved. As Mr. Pinheiro testified, the lack of decisive action by this venerable institution has "nourished the culture of impunity that has developed in Syria today".

On behalf of the 6.8 million Syrians who are in need of urgent care, the 1 8 million Syrians who have fled their country, and the 4.25 million who are internally displaced, the Syrian Coalition implores members of the Security Council to act without delay to stop the Syrian regime's illegal use of force against civilians. We ask that the Council call upon the Syrian regime to grant immediate and unfettered access to the Commission of Inquiry and take immediate steps to refer

the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court. Only by holding the violators of human rights accountable for their crimes will the violence in Syria end.

The Syrian Coalition remains committed to cooperating fully with the Commission of Inquiry and condemns all atrocities committed by all parties. With this in mind, on 5 June 2013, the Syrian Coalition agreed to assist the Commission of Inquiry in the fulfilment of its mandate, including in the liberated areas of Syria. We reiterate our invitation to members of the Commission to document abuses and human rights violations wherever these occur and reiterate our commitment to ending the culture of impunity that has thus far taken the lives of over 100,000 Syrians.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
United Nations Representative of the Syrian Coalition